Stephen L. Keil

Dr. Stephen L. Keil was director of the National Solar Observatory from May 1999 through July 2013. Currently he is a research scientist at the National Solar Observatory. In addition to leading the NSO, he served as the Project Director for the Advanced Technology Solar Telescope (ATST) from 2003-2011. The ATST is a 4-meter aperture solar telescope currently under construction that will revolutionize our understanding of magnetic process on the sun that lead to solar variability and activity that impact the earth and space environments. Prior to joining the NSO, Dr. Keil led the Air Force's Solar Environmental Disturbances task for 16 years. His research interests include the interaction of waves and convection with magnetic fields in the solar atmosphere, the origins of solar activity, the launch and propagation of coronal mass ejections, and the development of predictive models for space weather forecasting. He served as the program manager for the joint AF/NASA/University of Birmingham (UK) Solar Mass Ejection Imager which flew on the joint Navy/Air Force Coriolis Satellite and he was a co-investigator on the Flare Genesis balloon mission sponsored by NASA, the National Science Foundation, and the Air Force which flew in Antarctica. Dr. Keil is a 1969 graduate of the University of California, Berkeley, with a major in physics and a commission in the Army Corps of Engineers. He received his A.M. (1971) and Ph.D. (1975) from Boston University in Physics and Astronomy. He held several fellowships, including 18 months at the University of Sydney in Australia and a National Research Council Fellowship at Sacrament Peak, before joining the Air Force's Solar Research Branch as a Captain, USAF, in 1980. He was Chief of the Branch from 1983-1996. Dr. Keil has over 80 publications in the scientific literature.